

"We are realists... we dream the impossible" - Che

Fire This Time!

¡VIVA CUBA VIVA PRIDE!



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By Nita Palmer

Another 59 civilians have been killed by US coalition air strikes in Syria's northern city of Raqqa. Twenty-one of the dead are children. The air strikes are said to be targeting Daesh (ISIS) fighters, but to date have killed more than 300 civilians in the city.

The US government claims their air strikes and military intervention in the country have humanitarian aims – to rid the country of the terrorists of Daesh. Yet The Nation magazine reports that “[H]uman rights groups and local reporters say that, across Syria in recent months, the US-led coalition and US Marines have bombed or shelled at least 12 schools, including primary schools and a girls’ high school; a health clinic and an obstetrics hospital; Raqqa’s Science College; residential neighborhoods; bakeries; post offices; a car wash; at least 15 mosques; a cultural center; a gas station; cars carrying civilians to the hospital; a funeral; water tanks; at least 15 bridges; a makeshift refugee camp; the ancient Rafiqah Wall that dates back to the 8th century; and an Internet cafe in Raqqa, where a Syrian media activist was killed as he was trying to smuggle news out of the besieged city.” The Syrian Network for Human Rights also reports that in May and June, the US was responsible for more civilian deaths than Syrian government forces, Russian forces, and Daesh combined. Amnesty International has also confirmed US forces have used white phosphorus munitions in Raqqa. White phosphorus is a deadly toxin which burns skin to the bone and will kill and maim indiscriminately. The Convention on Conventional Weapons prohibits its use in areas populated by civilians, although the US is not a signatory to that convention. Just how is this a ‘humanitarian’ intervention if the US military is killing and injuring the very people it claims to be protecting?

Syria Then and Now

The families killed in these most recent air strikes are just the latest victims in a war which has killed over 400,000 people and devastated a once-thriving country. Just a few short years ago, Syria was known as a country which blended ancient and modern, featuring ancient

U.S.
OUT
OF
SYRIA

NOW!

UNESCO World Heritage sites alongside modern markets, malls, and universities. Today, large sections of the country remain under the control of Daesh or other terrorist groups). The Syrian government has been steadily gaining ground in the

battle against these terrorists, but the war has taken a devastating toll on the country. A quarter of the country’s schools are closed and nearly half of Syrian children cannot attend classes, according to UNICEF. Syria’s once-prized public health system has been decimated, with 57% of hospitals damaged and 37% no longer functioning, according to Physicians for Human Rights. The NGO Save the Children estimates that 200,000 Syrians have died from chronic diseases due to a lack of drugs and treatment.

Every aspect of daily life has been disrupted. Fuel shortages are common, and electricity is available only a few hours a day, if at all. The war has resulted in a 90% inflation rate, making even basic necessities out of reach of many families. Certain foods, including meat and some vegetables, are only available for steep prices on the black market.

Nearly five million Syrians have been forced to flee the country. The majority have spent months or years in refugee camps in neighbouring countries, particularly Lebanon. While safe from the immediate danger of war, these families face overcrowded conditions and a lack of basic necessities such as food and medicine. Ordinary life has been put on hold for those living in the camps, often with no work available for the adults and no school for the children.

In the areas still under siege by Daesh or other terrorist groups, people live every day in fear for their lives. Tim Ramadan, a journalist living in Raqqa, described life under Daesh in a recent article for The Guardian: “We lead double lives as a condition of our survival. Everyone has at least two personalities. The first personality despises ISIS, but if this personality emerges outside the home it could lead to execution. Therefore a second personality is necessary... That second personality must express an affinity for the militants, and emerges as soon as you see an ISIS member or you are stopped at one of their checkpoints.”

Fighting Terrorism or Fuelling Terrorism?

The United States and their allies claim to be fighting terrorism, but in reality they have directly contributed to the rise of Daesh and other radical terrorist groups. From the war in Iraq to the CIA’s support for al-Qaeda linked groups in

Libya and elsewhere, the US has created the conditions in the region for these groups to flourish. In Syria specifically, the US and their allies trained, armed and funded so-called 'moderate rebels' to fight against the Syrian government. In reality, however, many of these 'moderate' groups hold ties to al-Qaeda linked terrorist groups, particularly Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (formerly Jabhat al-Nusra). Professor Joshua Landis, director of the Center for Middle East Studies at the University of Oklahoma, told the LA Times in 2015 that "[t]he problem is this kaleidoscopic number of opposition groups that are constantly making deals with each other... everybody has been associated with al-Qaeda at some point".

But wait – didn't this 'war on terror' begin with the US fighting al-Qaeda? Are these not the very extremists who the US claims were responsible for the September 11, 2001 attack on the World Trade Center? Why, then, is the US government supporting groups affiliated with al-Qaeda in Syria?

US Strategy: to Remain in Syria Long-Term

The US government talks of bringing human rights to Syria; yet it is they who are bombing schools, hospitals, and mosques. They talk of ending terrorism; yet it is they who are funding, arming, and training the terrorists they claim to fight.

The only objective the US has managed to achieve in Syria is creating chaos and division in the country. They attack Daesh, yet they refuse to cooperate with the Syrian government or army – the organization best equipped to fight this deadly and dangerous group. In fact, the US government is funding 'rebels' to attack the Syrian people and the Syrian government, who could be their best ally in the fight against Daesh.

Even the 'rebels' they are funding are fighting each other. In January 2016, the LA times reported that "CIA-armed units and Pentagon-armed ones have repeatedly shot at each other while

manoeuvring through contested territory on the northern outskirts of Aleppo".

In short, US intervention and meddling has done everything but establish human rights and stop terrorism. It has, however, divided the country and provided an opportunity and justification for US military intervention.

It seems they have found exactly that opportunity in Syria's Kurdish area in the north. Reuters reported in August that Talal Silo, a spokesperson for the American-backed and Kurdish-dominated Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), said that the SDF believes that Washington has strategic interests in the country. "They have a strategy policy for decades to come. There will be military, economic, and political agreements in the long term between the leadership of the northern areas [of Syria] and the US administration."

The US has already established military bases in the area and has forces deployed in several locations in northern Syria along the border with Turkey. Silo also stated that, "[The US recently] referred to the possibility of securing an area to prepare for a military airport. These are the beginnings – they are not giving support just to leave. America is not providing all this support for free."

The White House has denied claims that they are pursuing a long-term occupation in Syria. However, we only need to look to the occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan for a blueprint of a likely scenario in Syria. In both those countries, the US has established a decade-plus occupation and built massive military infrastructure as well as large embassies.

US strategy in Syria and the region as a whole is not focussed on bringing peace, democracy, or human rights to the region. The US and their allies are pursuing this strategy in order to establish military, political, and economic control in the

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U.S. continues airstrikes against Syria



Rally against U.S. war on Syria in La Paz, Bolivia



More than 6 million Syrians are internally displaced according to the United Nations

YEMEN'S CHILDREN UNDER ATTACK!



A man rescues Buthaina Muhammad Mansour from the site of a Saudi-led air strike in Sanaa, Yemen August 25, 2017.

By Azza Rojbi

As families in North America are preparing for the new school year, children in Yemen are struggling to stay alive amid the war that is ravaging their country. The people of Yemen have been suffering under a brutal bombing campaign carried out by Saudi Arabia's government and its allies. Over two years of war and destruction have left the country in the midst of a humanitarian crisis that's getting worse by the day. In a joint statement, three UN agencies, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Program (WFP) described the most recent situation in Yemen as "the world's worst cholera outbreak in the midst of the world's largest humanitarian crisis."

Humanitarian crisis intensifies!

The indiscriminate bombing campaign by the Saudi-led coalition has destroyed homes, schools, hospitals, roads, markets, mosques, and other economic and civilian infrastructure. Coupled with the inhuman naval, aerial and land blockade imposed on the country by Saudi Arabia, Yemen faces huge shortages of many essential items, including food, fuel and medical supplies. According to the UN's latest report on the situation in Yemen, "21.1 million people are in need



Buthaina recovering from her injuries at the hospital. Photo by Karem Alzerii

of humanitarian assistance, of which 9.9 million are children and 1.4 million are internally displaced."

This lack of food, medicine and proper healthcare and sanitary infrastructure has plunged the country into a widespread cholera epidemic. According to the New York Times 5,000 Yemenis are infected with cholera each day. Children suffering from acute malnutrition account for a big number of fatalities by the disease.

In a report by UNICEF titled "Falling through the cracks - the children of Yemen" the situation for children in Yemen was described as "A Calamity." The report states that "Nearly 2.2 million children are acutely malnourished and require urgent care. Close to half a million children suffer from severe acute malnutrition, a life-threatening condition that has seen a drastic increase of 200 per

cent since 2014."

Children of Yemen: deprived of their lives and future

The Saudi government backed by the US and their allies has no respect for human life. Their brutal bombardment and war on Yemen is stripping Yemeni children of their childhood and destroying the hopes and future of a whole generation. As the UNICEF representative in Yemen, Meritxell Relaño, described it "Relentless fighting and destruction has scarred children for life."

One of the recent horrendous crimes by the Saudi-led coalition was an airstrike on an apartment building in the residential neighbourhood of Faj Attan in the south of Sana'a. The airstrike killed 14 civilians and injured another 16, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross. The world saw the atrocities that

happened through the photos of the young Buthaina Muhammad Mansour, believed to be four or five years old, in her hospital bed as she tries to open one of her severely swollen eyes with her index finger and

thumb. Buthaina is the sole survivor of the bombing that flattened her house and killed her parents, siblings and uncle. Imagine what went through the mind of this innocent child while she was stuck underneath the debris of her home for more than 14 hours before being rescued. Imagine how she must of felt when she learned that all her family members were killed by the bombing. Buthaina lost her home, her family, her innocence, and her childhood in what the Saudi-led military coalition called a "technical mistake"!!!

Buthaina's story and suffering is shared by millions of children and families in Yemen, struggling to survive under the war and the economic blockade imposed on their country by Saudi Arabia's government and its allies. The war is destroying the spirit and hope of children in Yemen. In this back to school season, the children of Yemen are being deprived



A classroom damaged after a Saudi airstrike on Ibn Sina School in Sanaa, Yemen, April 2015.

from the opportunity to go to school and from the dream of building a better future.

At least two million children, or about 30 per cent of school-age children, are out of school according to UNICEF. An estimated 2,108 schools across the country can no longer be used as they are either destroyed, damaged or being used for other purposes.

Amnesty international has recorded several instances where the Saudi fighter jets bombed schools with civilians and students in them or in the vicinity. One example is the Al-Asma School in Mansouriya village which was bombed on August 24, 2015.

A student at the school spoke to Amnesty International about how she and her classmates continue to fear future attacks

on their school: "We are living in fear and in terror. Today I saw the plane and I was very afraid and terrified. The sound today was loud but the feeling I had was like that of all of

the girls at school today, of course we are afraid...We just want the aggression [coalition forces] to stop [shelling] on schools. It is a shame for them to bomb kids, a shame for them to attack schools. Their kids study in Saudi Arabia in private universities and everywhere. Our kids are bombed."

Hands off Yemen! #KefayaWar on Yemen!

The Saudi-led coalition has been bombing Yemen since March 2015 in an attempt to reinstate their puppet, former president Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, to power. Since day one, the United States provided the coalition with political, military and logistical support.

Saudi and UAE fighter jets are being refuelled mid-air by US Air Force tankers.

In addition the US and the UK are helping the Saudi government and their coalition allies to restock their weapon inventory. According to Amnesty international the US and the UK have sold over \$5 billion worth of weapons to the Saudi government since the beginning of the war; more than 10 times the \$450 million they claim have spent in humanitarian donations to help the millions of people suffering in Yemen.

Despite all of this, the Saudi government is failing in its attempt to restore to power its puppet regime and crush the spirit of the brave Yemeni people. The Yemeni people continue to fight and protest against the foreign Saudi-led aggression on their country. They continue to share with the world their voice, their photos, and their stories to try to break the media silence and resist against the lies and deceptions by the Saudi government and their allies.

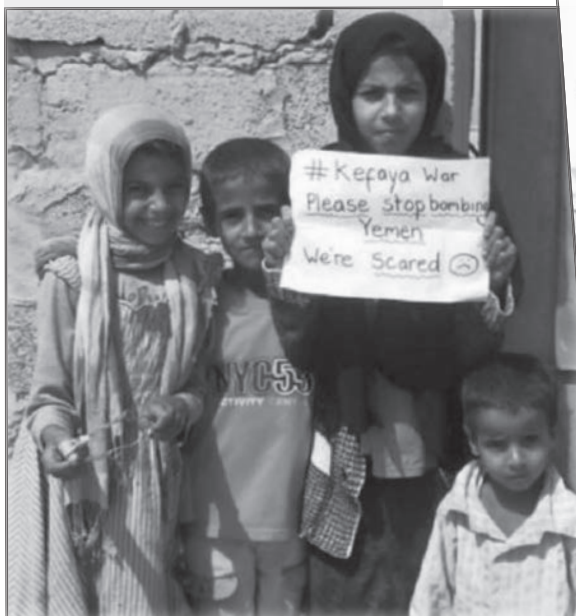
Let's join the Yemeni people to expose the atrocities committed by the US, Saudi Arabia and their allies in Yemen. Let's join the people of Yemen in standing up for their self-determination, sovereignty, human rights and a bright future for the children of Yemen!

US/Saudi Arabia Hands off Yemen!

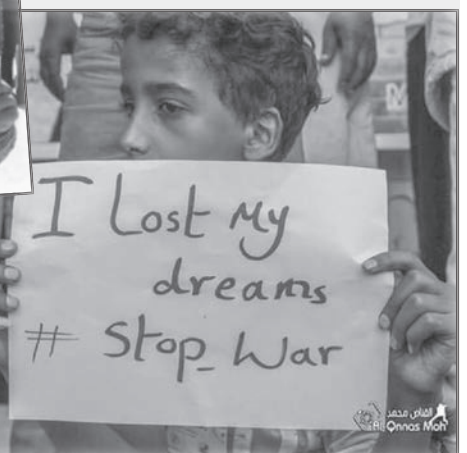
Stop Bombing Yemen!

Lift the Naval, Air and Land Blockade on Yemen!

*Follow Azza Rojbi on Twitter:
@Azza_R14*



VOICES OF THE CHILDREN OF YEMEN



[illegible]

September is here and Texas oil giant Kinder Morgan is promising to start construction of its Trans-Mountain pipeline expansion any day now. The news is filled with conflicting media statements, legal opinions, and government jurisdiction claims. Within the uncertainty of the situation, there are a few simple truths we should remind ourselves of:

- With that in mind, and upcoming,

On November 19, 2016, leading up to the Federal government decision on Kinder Morgan, over 5000 people marched in Vancouver declaring, “No Consent No Pipeline!” They showed again the strength and diversity of the movement. This was also the launch of the Coast Protectors Pledge. Over 20,000 people have signed on to declare, ““With our voice, in the

courts or the streets, on the water or the land. Whatever it takes, we will stop the Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion."

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau continues to be unable to come to Vancouver without protestors "welcoming" him, and the Climate Convergence Coalition has continued to organize well attended monthly protests in front of banks investing in the project.

The Secwepemc nation, whose land is the largest indigenous territory that the pipeline project is proposed to pass through, is building 10 tiny houses directly on the pipeline route as part of their ongoing resistance to the project which they have not consented to.

The Kwantlen Nation is also gearing up to build a Healing lodge in memory of Kwantlen ancestors who did not survive residential schools, 60's scoop, small pox epidemics and have gone missing and murdered. This will also be in the route of the pipeline.

Have we stopped the pipeline? Not yet, but this organizing has improved the balance of forces for poor, working and oppressed people. Kinder Morgan was forced to admit to investors that opposition to the pipeline is a major concern, and those buying shares should be willing to lose most or all of their investment. The organizing has been so broad and impactful that it has been impossible for Kinder Morgan, the Federal government and the mainstream media to marginalize and ignore.

Create Two, Three, Many Standing Rocks

The Standing Rock protest camp which rocked the world last began started as a small group of people in the middle of nowhere in North Dakota. It grew because of the urgency of the situation, with people fed up of being promised the prosperity of "trickle down" economics and inheriting nothing but poverty and a dying planet. These volatile conditions remain the same, and the movement against the Kinder Morgan pipeline is starting from a much more organized and developed place.

So September is upon us and there is a lot of work to do. The September 9, "Kinder Morgan We Still Say NO!" rally will be a crucial demonstration of the strength of the movement, but Kinder Morgan and Trudeau are not afraid of one big day of protest. What they are afraid of is people in motion together, organizing consistently and confronting them at every turn. We have been able to sustain the movement so far, but now especially is the time come together, and stay together, to stop this pipeline and create the sustainable world we all need.

Kinder Morgan, We Still Say No!
All Out for September 9, and Beyond!

SYSTEM CHANGE NOT CLIMATE CHANGE!



Kinder Morgan faced constant protests on Burnaby Mountain as it drilled for samples during the winter of 2014.



As climate change advances and the earth's ecosystem becomes more imbalanced, natural disasters like the fires which raged through BC this summer and the floods in Houston become more common.



The Climate Convergence coalition in Vancouver has continued successful monthly "IntersAction" protests in front of the banks which are funding the Kinder Morgan pipeline

CUBAN INTERNATIONALISTS IN VENEZUELA: THE SPIRIT OF RESISTANCE AND HOPE



6 Cuban Internationalists in Venezuela:
Alberto Ortiz, Sandier Pérez, Milaidis Auty,
Yanara Guirola, Roberto Aguilera, and
Alexis Ginarte, August 2017.

Introduction by: Tamara Hansen
By: Alina Perera Robbio

August 2017 marked 12 years of medical cooperation between the revolutionary governments of Cuba and Venezuela. On August 21, 2005 Cuban President Fidel Castro and Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez signed an unprecedented agreement. Those signatures gave rise to Misión Milagro (Miracle Mission) which provides free eye surgeries for those with cataracts in Cuba, Venezuela and throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. In just over ten years this program has restored vision to over 6 million people with serious vision impairments caused by cataracts. This is just one small example of the amazing progress that can be accomplished for poor and working people when we have a revolutionary socialist government on our side.

Fire This Time Newspaper is excited to share with our readers this interview by Cuban journalist Alina Perera Robbio with six Cuban professionals (three doctors, a nurse, a speech therapist, and an agricultural engineer) at an Integral Diagnostic Center in Yaracuy, Venezuela. These interviews encompass many aspects of the important work of Cuba's Revolutionary internationalists, who are serving in countries throughout the world providing free healthcare, education, and professional support. As of 2015 Cuba has 37,000 medical professionals working in 77 countries worldwide, by and large to serve those who cannot afford doctors and medical care, or are in rural areas which do not have regular health services.

The Cubans interviewed below have been working in Venezuela at great personal risk.

The right-wing media in Venezuela has been claiming that Cuba is "occupying" their country and painting Cubans as a 'boogey-man' threat to Venezuela. Over the years the Cuban medical missions have often been a target of right-wing harassment and violence in Venezuela. Through these interviews we understand the importance of the work of Cubans in Venezuela today and the power of revolution internationalism – to heal, to educate, and to promote equal access to services in spite of barriers. All of these accomplishments can happen when we refuse to let borders define us, and instead recognize (as Cuban independence leader Jose Marti said) that humanity is our homeland.

YARACUY, Venezuela– Thousands of books, testament to a venerable work of patience, commitment and courage, could be written from the experiences of every Cuban collaborator working far away from their families, to help people all over the world. Each one I meet has important stories to tell.

As a general rule, the collaborators support each other, and their work teams become like families, where every member readily entrusts their lives to the protection of their compatriots.

Speaking with six collaborators at the Macario Vizcalla Comprehensive Diagnostic Center (CDI) in the municipality of San

Felipe, the intensity of their daily work and the strong, family-like bonds which quickly develop between all became clear.

Twenty-seven year old Alberto Ortiz Rosales, a qualified intensive care specialist from Yara, Granma province, was the first to speak. Alberto proudly noted that he has been working in the land of Bolívar for the last 34 months, after graduating in July 2014: "This is my first experience actually working, and it is without a doubt unique," he explained.

As a "spoiled only child," Alberto has had to learn to cook and live independently. "Here I didn't have any other family, just my colleagues," he recalled. Regarding his work, the intensive care specialist described his profession as one that "requires you to be composed, because you have to be ready to face any emergency, because a person's life depends on you making quick decisions."

In Venezuela he was confronted with illnesses

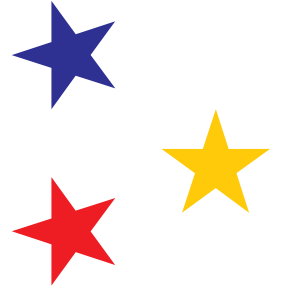
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INTERNACIONALISTAS CUBANOS EN VENEZUELA: el espíritu de resistencia y esperanza



Profesionales cubanas de la salud de la Misión Barrio Adentro posan para una fotografía con el presidente de Venezuela, Nicolás Maduro



* EN ESPAÑOL *

Introducción por: Tamara Hansen
Por: Alina Perera Robbio

Agosto de 2017 marcó 12 años de cooperación médica entre los gobiernos revolucionarios de Cuba y Venezuela. El 21 de agosto de 2005, el presidente cubano Fidel Castro y el presidente venezolano Hugo Chávez firmaron un acuerdo sin precedentes. Esas firmas dieron origen a la Misión Milagro, que provee cirugías oftálmicas gratuitas para las personas con cataratas en Cuba, Venezuela y en toda América Latina y el Caribe. Hace poco más de diez años, este programa ha restaurado la visión a más de 6 millones de personas con serios problemas de visión causados por cataratas. Este es sólo un pequeño ejemplo del increíble progreso que se puede lograr para los pobres y los trabajadores cuando tenemos un gobierno socialista revolucionario de nuestro lado.

El periódico *Fire This Time* se complace en compartir con nuestros lectores esta entrevista de la periodista cubana Alina Perera Robbio con seis profesionales cubanos (tres médicos, una enfermera, un logopeda y un ingeniero agrícola) en un Centro de Diagnóstico Integral en Yaracuy, Venezuela. Estas entrevistas abarcan muchos aspectos de la importante labor de los internacionalistas revolucionarios de Cuba, que prestan servicio en países de todo el mundo que prestan atención médica gratuita, educación y apoyo profesional. A partir de 2015 Cuba cuenta con 37.000 profesionales médicos que trabajan en 77 países de todo el mundo, en general para servir a los que no pueden pagar

los médicos y la atención médica, o en las zonas rurales que no tienen servicios regulares de salud.

A continuación los cubanos entrevistados que han estado trabajando en Venezuela con gran riesgo personal. Los medios de comunicación de derecha en Venezuela han estado afirmando que Cuba está "ocupando" su país y pintando a los cubanos como una amenaza de "boogeyman" a Venezuela. A lo largo de los años, las misiones médicas cubanas han sido a menudo objeto de hostigamiento y violencia de derecha en Venezuela. A través de estas entrevistas entendemos la importancia del trabajo de los cubanos en Venezuela hoy y el poder del internacionalismo de la revolución - sanar, educar y promover la igualdad de acceso a los servicios a pesar de las barreras. Todos estos logros pueden ocurrir cuando nos negamos a dejar que las fronteras nos definan, y reconocemos (como dijo el líder de la independencia cubana José Martí) que nuestra patria es humanidad.

YARACUÍ, Venezuela- Si cada misionero nuestro escribiera sobre lo vivido lejos de la familia mientras ayuda a los semejantes en diversos puntos del mundo, nacerían miles de libros que dieran fe de una obra de admirable paciencia, entrega y coraje.

Cada uno de los que encuentro a mi paso tiene historias valiosas que contar. Como regla de oro cierran filas con sus colegas; conforman colectivos que son familias, donde cada integrante confía su vida, con los ojos cerrados, al cuidado de sus compatriotas.

Una conversación con seis misioneros en el Centro de Diagnóstico Integral (CDI) «Macario Vizcalla», del municipio San Felipe, corroboró la intensidad con que

ellos viven sus días, y los fuertes lazos que nacen súbitamente, como de hermanos.

Alberto Ortiz Rosales, de 27 años, médico diplomado en cuidados intensivos, de Yara, en la provincia de Granma, fue el primero en hablar. Desde hace 34 meses labora en tierra bolivariana. Dijo con orgullo haberse graduado en julio del 2014: «O sea; esta es mi primera experiencia laboral, y no hay dudas de que es única».

Por ser «hijo único, de mamá y papá», Alberto tuvo que aprender a cocinar y a realizar cuanto actividad debe acometerse en una casa. «Aquí no tenía otra familia, solo mis compañeros», recordó. Y en cuanto al trabajo, habló de su profesión como una actividad que exige «actuar de forma ecuánime, porque hay que estar preparado para enfrentar cualquier emergencia, porque la vida de una persona depende de las decisiones que se tomen contra reloj».

Al llegar a Venezuela se enfrentó a enfermedades hasta entonces solo vistas en libros. «Anécdotas hay muchas que contar - dijo-; pero hay una que recordaré de manera particular: un día llegó a mi consulta una paciente. Eran las diez de la noche, traía una lesión de la pared abdominal, era diabética, su vida corría peligro. En aquel momento el salón de operaciones quirúrgicas de San Felipe estaba en reparación y la misión Barrio Adentro en mi municipio no contaba con especialistas en cirugía general.

«La señora no tenía recursos y ya había pasado por otros centros asistenciales desde los cuales la habían remitido a otros lugares.

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which, up until that point, he had only seen in books. "I've got a lot of stories," noted the young healthcare professional, "but there's one that stands out: one day a patient came to my clinic. It was 10pm and she had a wound in their abdominal wall, and was diabetic, her life was in danger. At that time, the operating theater in San Felipe was undergoing repairs and there were no general surgery specialists in the Barrio Adentro (Into the Neighborhood) mission in my municipality.

"The woman was out of options, she had already visited other healthcare centers which had referred her to other places. She needed immediate attention. I didn't have an operating theater, or anesthesia, but had to act fast. So, I gave her a strong sedative and drained the infection, which was very big, myself. The patient's life was saved."

According to Alberto, if there is one thing you learn on a mission such as this, it's the ability to put yourself in another person's shoes.

Meanwhile, 34 year old emergency nurse Sandier Pérez García, from the province of Cienfuegos, also has experience working in difficult situations which require swift decision making. In his eight months serving in Venezuela he has had to treat various illnesses, witnessed extreme poverty, and attended patients who had never seen a doctor before, and much less been admitted to hospital.

Speaking about the gestures of gratitude he receives from patients, Sandier recalled the joy of those who regained the ability to walk thanks to the committed work of Cuban specialists. "We have had many diabetic patients come to the ward," he noted, "saying that they can't bear the pain; that they can't walk; and they have left happy. This is what gives meaning to my profession. I feel human and very fulfilled with my work; I am grateful to be a nurse."

A MOTHER TO MANY

Aiding those with disabilities and helping others to develop their language and communication skills is the job and passion of 38 year old speech therapy specialist, Milaidis Auty Almenares, from Santiago de



On August 21, 2005 Cuban President Fidel Castro and Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez signed the unprecedented "Sandino Agreement" which promotes various healthcare projects between Cuba and Venezuela.

Cuba.

The young healthcare professional works with patients of all ages, but children represent a vast group for which she holds a special place in her heart. "Many came to me unable to speak," she explained "and now they can talk. Some call me 'mom'".

Do you have children?

Yes, four.

When you return to Cuba, what will you tell them about your time here?

I'll tell them that we never took a step back, that we knew how to accompany this beloved people.

Milaidis has many stories she could share with her children, like the one about the three and a half year old patient who arrived unable to speak a single word, and who today, at five years of age, sings nursery rhymes.

OTHER STORIES OF LOVE

Three months were enough to deeply mark 26 year old Optics and Optometry graduate Yanara Guirola González. From the town of Arabos in the province of Matanzas, Yanara has been working in Venezuela for over two years. Currently based in the State of Yaracuí, she spent the first three months of the mission in Delta Amacuro State, where she witnessed extreme poverty and had new experiences.

Overcome with emotion, Yanara recalled her experience traveling over the choppy waters of the Orinoco River, the faces of the country's indigenous peoples, and situations

that forced her to harness a strength she never knew she had; which despite everything, she noted, were worth the effort.

Meanwhile, 46 year old physiatrist Roberto Aguilera Navarro, from Santiago de Cuba, noted that the most beautiful thing about the job is "fulfilling the internationalist legacy of Comandante en Jefe Fidel, with his humanism."

Roberto explained that he had the privilege of receiving his diploma directly from Fidel, when he graduated as a doctor in 2000: "It was the first graduation that took place at the Anti-imperialist Tribunal. He (Fidel) gave me the diploma on August 13, his birthday, and I had the privilege of being close to him."

Another member of this internationalist family explained that he is here to "repay some of the debt we owe to humanity." Alexis Ginarte Osoria, a 60 year old agricultural engineer, has been working in Yaracuí for the last 18 months, where he has been sharing experiences on how to increase crop yields.

Originally from Santiago de Cuba, but currently living in Guantánamo, Alexis was born in the community of La Lata, in the Sierra Maestra. He studied agriculture, a field which, he noted, he carries in his roots. "I came to continue Cuba's internationalist work. I participated on a mission in Angola, which had a great impact on me."

Alexis also spoke about the 15 key economic sectors being strengthened by the Bolivarian Revolution, and efforts between Cubans and Venezuelans to share knowledge about urban agriculture, a field in which Cuba has seen much success, despite lacking resources.

Just like a family, here all share similar emotions; a unique force united by a common element: the spirit of resistance and hope.

Alina Perera Robbio is a Cuban journalist, columnist for Granma and collaborator for Cubadebate. She has won multiple journalism prizes in Cuba's annual awards.

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original title: "A Family's Mission"*

Viene de la página 9

Su estado físico necesitaba una atención urgente. Yo no contaba con un salón de operaciones, ni con anestesiista, pero debía actuar con rapidez. Le coloqué entonces un sedante fuerte, y yo mismo drené la infección que era bien grande. La paciente salvó su vida».

Alberto confesó que si algo se aprende en una misión como la suya, es la capacidad de ponerse en el lugar del otro.

También el enfermero emergencista Sandier Pérez García, de 34 años, de la provincia de Cienfuegos, sabe desempeñarse en situaciones complejas y que exigen tomar decisiones sin demora. En sus ocho meses como misionero ha lidiado con enfermedades diversas, con pobreza extrema, con pacientes que nunca habían sido vistos por un médico y mucho menos habían estado en una sala de hospitalización.

Al hablar de gratitud, recordó la alegría de quienes han podido seguir caminando a pesar de haber sufrido una lesión, porque lograron sanar gracias a la entrega de los especialistas cubanos. «Muchos pacientes diabéticos han llegado a la sala –rememoró el enfermero– diciendo no soportar el dolor, no poder caminar. Y se han ido felices. Eso es lo que le da sentido a mi profesión. Me siento humano y muy realizado con mi trabajo; estoy muy agradecido de ser enfermero».

MADRE DE MUCHOS HIJOS

Ayudar a personas que presentan alguna discapacidad, modelar el lenguaje de quienes deben aprender a comunicarse es la labor y la pasión de Milaidis Auty Almenares, santiaguera de 38 años y especialista en Defectología.

Llegan a ella pacientes de todas las edades. Pero los niños conforman un grupo amplísimo que la desvelan y conmueven. «Muchos se acercaron a mí sin hablar –contó–, y ya pueden hacerlo. Algunos me dicen mamá».

–¿Usted tiene hijos?

–Cuatro.

–Cuando regrese a Cuba, ¿qué les contará sobre esta etapa?

–Les diré que nunca dimos un paso atrás, que supimos acompañar a este querido pueblo.

Milaidis podrá compartir muchas historias con sus hijos, como la de un paciente que cuando llegó a ella tenía tres años y medio de edad y no pronunciaba palabra alguna, y que hoy, cuando tiene cinco años, entona



Los médicos cubanos siguen cumpliendo con su deber de atender a cada ciudadano venezolano que requiera de sus servicios, independientemente de la filiación política, clase social, u otras consideraciones, 2013.

canciones infantiles.

OTROS EPISODIOS DE AMOR

Tres meses fueron suficientes para marcar en lo profundo a Yanara Guirola González, de 26 años y licenciada en Optometría y Óptica. De los Arabos, en la provincia de Matanzas, se desempeña como misionera en Venezuela desde hace más de dos años.

Pero no siempre estuvo en el Estado de Yaracuí: su primera temporada, la de los tres meses, fue en el Estado del Delta Amacuro, donde conoció pobreza extrema y vivió experiencias hasta ese momento desconocidas.

Mientras la emoción la embargaba, Yanara recordó el viaje en lancha sobre las bravas aguas del río Orinoco, los rostros de los indígenas, situaciones muy difíciles que le hicieron sacar fuerzas de donde parecía no tener. A pesar de todo, dijo, valió la pena todo el esfuerzo.

El médico fisiatra de 46 años Roberto Aguilera Navarro, de Santiago de Cuba, afirma que lo más hermoso «es cumplir con el legado internacionalista del Comandante en Jefe Fidel, con su humanismo».

Contó que tuvo el privilegio, cuando se graduó como médico en el año 2000, de que Fidel le entregara el título personalmente: «Fue en la primera graduación que se hizo en la Tribuna Antiimperialista. Él me dio el diploma un 13 de agosto, día de su cumpleaños, y yo tuve el privilegio de tenerlo cerca.

Otro miembro de esta familia de misioneros

explicó que está aquí para «saldar parte de la deuda que hemos contraído con la humanidad». Alexis Ginarte Osoria, de 60 años, ingeniero agrónomo, lleva 18 meses aquí para compartir experiencias sobre cómo hacer que la tierra dé mucho más.

Es santiaguero de nacimiento y actualmente vive en Guantánamo. Nació en la Sierra Maestra, en la Lata. Estudió agricultura, mundo que, dijo, lleva en sus raíces. «Vine a dar continuidad a la labor internacionalista de Cuba. Yo cumplí misión en Angola, lo cual dejó en mí profundas huellas».

Ginarte habló sobre los 15 motores de la economía que ha echado a andar la Revolución Bolivariana, sobre el modo en que cubanos y venezolanos comparten saberes concernientes a la agricultura urbana que en la Isla se emprende con éxito, con pocos recursos, y con resultados satisfactorios.

Como en una familia, aquí todas las emociones se parecen; y un factor común las convierte en fuerza única: el espíritu de la resistencia y de la esperanza.

Alina Perera Robbio es periodista cubana, columnista de Juventud Rebelde y colaboradora de Cubadebate. Ha ganado múltiples premios de periodismo en los certámenes anuales del país.

Desde: <http://granma.cu> con el título original: "Misiones de una familia"

CANADA IT'S TIME FOR CHANGE!



Bring those statues down!

By Tamara Hansen

Across Canada we find statues, universities, schools, libraries, streets, parks, plazas, and other marks of honour named after a host of seemingly important dead white men. John A Macdonald, the first Prime Minister of Canada; Edward Cornwallis, founder of the city of Halifax; and Sir Hector-Louis Langevin, a Canadian lawyer and one of the Fathers of Confederation are three such men deemed important enough to have their names adorned on institutions and public works across the country. Of course there are a host of others who are also used prominently throughout the country. Some of these historic figures were politicians who promoted and

established many of the anti-human policies of the government of Canada. For example: John A Macdonald also brought in the Chinese Head Tax (1885), did not follow through with treaty promises and persecuted Indigenous and Métis peoples; and was responsible for the establishment of the residential school system in Canada. Edward Cornwallis also issued the so-called 'scalping proclamation' offering to pay people who would go out and kill Mi'kmaq (First Nation) people to clear the path for colonization. Lastly, Sir Hector-Louis Langevin is considered the architect of the residential school system in Canada. In their era their racist laws and policies were often justified as 'progress', 'the will of god', 'civilizing', and keeping Canada an "Anglo-Saxon race" nation. (It is important to note that at various times in Canada's history

Protesters in Halifax, Nova Scotia cheer as City of Halifax workers cover the statue of Edward Cornwallis, July 2017.

groups that would today be considered "white" were considered a different race to protestant Anglo-Saxons, this included: Irish people, Ukrainian people, Jewish people, etc.) All of these laws were deemed necessary in the establishment of the settler-colonial nation known today as Canada.

However, as their roles in history become further exposed to the public by the media, community organizations, historians, academics, activists, etc. Canada is opening an important discussion about whether or not publicly funded institutions should continue to hold the names of these people. Do they deserve to have their supposed positive accomplishments highlighted, when the accomplishments were at the expense of the livelihood, culture, and lives of others?



L to R: Protest of Sir John A. Macdonald's birthday in Hamilton, Ontario 2015; Idle No More Protest for Treaty Rights 2013; Chinese Head Tax Certificate 1919



This debate exploded into Canada's consciousness this year as the country marked 150 years since its founding on July 1, 1867. It grabbed headlines again in August with the pro-Nazi rally in favor of keeping a confederate statue in Charlottesville, Virginia, U.S., and also when the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario passed a motion supporting the renaming of schools and buildings named after Sir John A. Macdonald in all school districts in Ontario. The motion calls Macdonald the "architect of genocide against Indigenous Peoples."

Canada's genocidal policies against Indigenous people

The United Nations "Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide" definition of genocide reads, "In the present Convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such: 1-Killing members of the group; 2-Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; 3-Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; 4-Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group."

When one reads this definition the ongoing "debate" about whether or not the government's residential school system was a genocidal campaign against Indigenous people, becomes less of a debate, and more just denial. The government's speeches, documents and law all demonstrate that the residential school system and policy of assimilation

against Indigenous people was deliberately "calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part," and also involved the forcible transfer of "children of the group to another group." We should stop debating the term genocide, and not try to mask Canada's history. For example the term "cultural genocide" (which is not an internationally recognized term) is often used to dilute or soften the severity of the crimes perpetrated by the government of Canada against Indigenous people. The policies of the government of Canada were genocidal, yet Canada is not ready to stomach or admit to this objective fact, which is obvious as well in the debate over statues and renaming.

Canada's history has been contested by various marginalized groups throughout its 150 years, from the Quebecois, to women, to people of Asian descent, to people of African descent, to queer people, to First Nations, to Métis people, to Inuit people, and others. Over the past 20 years or so, these groups have been working to force the government to apologize for many injustices, and some have had a certain amount of success. The government of Canada has officially apologized for: residential schools, the Chinese head tax, the internment of Japanese-Canadians in WWII, the Komagata Maru incident, the forced relocation of the Inuit, and others. Most recently the government announced it will soon apologize for historic injustices against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans people in Canada. These apologies are very popular at the moment. They rarely have compensation attached to them, or do much to support the affected community, but it makes a good news story and good

press for the government. At the same time, these apologies have never come easy – thousands of people across Canada have been protesting, petitioning, letter-writing, and demanding these apologies as the government does not like to recognize its role in past and ongoing injustices.

Canada it's time for change

While unions are passing motions and activists are protesting many statues across Canada – from Macdonald in Victoria, BC to Cornwallis in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Jon Tattrie, the author of *Cornwallis: the violent birth of Halifax*, explained to CTV news, "shouldn't our publicly funded art be about education and not about propaganda from one point of view?" Meaning, the statues of all of these dead white men are not politically neutral. They come with an ingrained ideology about who 'built' the nation of Canada. While those who disagree argue that renaming places or tearing down statues represents a current cultural bias, the fact that women, people of colour, and especially Indigenous people are so under represented also represents a bias, as pointed out by Tatterie.

On August 2, 2017 these discussions were reflected on CBC's weekly call-in show Cross-Country Check-up. Host Duncan McCue explained some of the statues and renaming being discussed and debated in cities and communities across Canada. However, as most discussions on this issue it eventually do, he asks the question, "where do we draw the line?"

While it is a question, and seems to be opening a discussion. This question/statement is often used to stop discussion, it is meant to protect the status-quo.

No one would argue to keep a statue of Adolf Hitler or think their children should attend Osama Bin Laden Secondary School, and if you proposed tearing down the statue of either of those, universally hated figures, no one would bother to ask, 'but where do we draw the line?'

Yet, when it comes to Macdonald, Cornwallis, and Langevin who either preached whole-sale slaughter or the genocidal assimilation of Indigenous people, some say things like 'but we cannot forget our history'. A quick reminder, history is not taught by statues and having a name stamped on a park or school, history is learned in classrooms, books, newspaper, etc. On the other hand, statues, monuments, parks and other public spaces and works are usually named in ceremonies to mark people we have deemed important and respectful enough to celebrate. Macdonald, Cornwallis, and Langevin are not those people.

Some might also argue that renaming does not solve the economic and social issues caused by the unjust policies of the government of Canada. That is correct. However, by opening this critical thinking and discussion about who our society should commemorate and celebrate, we engage working and oppressed people in a dialogue about the impact and repercussion of politics. If we do not get involved in making basic change

and make this more superficial aspect of society more equal and representative, how are we going to convince people of the importance and need for fundamental changes?

Some International inspiration

In the United States many monuments and statues of proponents of the confederate army, who fought to keep slavery legal, are being torn down across the country. In Caracas, Venezuela in 2004 they tore down the statue of Christopher Columbus and renamed "Columbus Day" as "the Day of Indigenous Resistance". In Paraguay a statue of the former dictator General Alfredo Stroessner was disassembled from something honourable into a pile of bones encased in cement – they kept the statue, but in a more fitting way for that man and his legacy.

When we stop asking questions like, 'but where do we draw the line?' and start asking instead questions like: Who do we want to honour? What moments or events deserve to be commemorated? How do we create monuments about injustice? How do we create monuments

that reflect the society we have become and wish to be? Then we will have a better idea. If there are some private collectors who want to preserve statues of John A Macdonald, let them have them! Once we establish that we are not interested to celebrate these historic figures in our public spaces, the possibilities for reclamation, transformation, and empowerment are infinite.

*Follow Tamara Hansen on Twitter:
@THans01*



Above: Statue of Paraguay's former dictator Stroessner has been 'remodelled'. Lower: Statue of Christopher Columbus comes down in Caracas, Venezuela, October 2014.

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Statement from Leonard Peltier Regarding Murdered Native Women



In loving Honor of one of our own Savannah LaFontaine-Greywind and all of our murdered and missing Native Women.

Greetings my friend's, relative's, supporters and loved ones,

I want to speak to you today in regards to some current events that have taken place. The one most noteworthy at this time which is representative of an ongoing problem for our people is the horrific murder of Savannah LaFontaine-Greywind. Savannah, whose baby was ripped from her womb, and then Savannah body wrapped in a plastic bag and thrown into the river.

Death among our people by other than natural situations have, for generations been untimely, unnecessary and tragic. Savannah death is a gruesome example of what happens to so many of our people at the hands of this dominate society. Our native women are ten times more victims of violence than any other group of women. And that is violence from non-Indians, that is a statistical fact. Our women are kidnapped and killed and made to disappear more than any other group. Its as if society has put us in the category of some species that is expendable.

Whether America wants to believe it or not, the Native American people and their philosophy is crucial to survival

of America. We have given our lives to protect the mother earth and bring to your attention the destruction that this industrial society perpetrates against the natural ecology of this portion of the planet where we all dwell. If Savannah's terrible, tragic, horrific death was an unusual occurrence, then we could probably grieve as we often do and move on. But her death is representative of common occurrences against our people and especially our young women. We cannot afford, physically, emotionally, mentally or any other way for this type of behavior to continue. I am not a begging man. It is not part of our culture to beg. But I'm begging you white America to rise to the occasion and help stop this continuing residual byproduct of the genocide that has been perpetrated against Native people.

It is a time in history now that all the different religions, faiths and philosophies need to come together and actively, in a loud voice, seek change in America. Based on respect, for one another, the creator of all things, the mother earth and actively take part in bringing about this needed change of direction that America has taken for so long, for too long. I am not just talking about our indigenous people either, I am referring to all people and all colors of people and all social economic levels of people. The web of life in America is deeply fractured and torn. And I know anyone taking time to read this knows in their heart that my words are true.

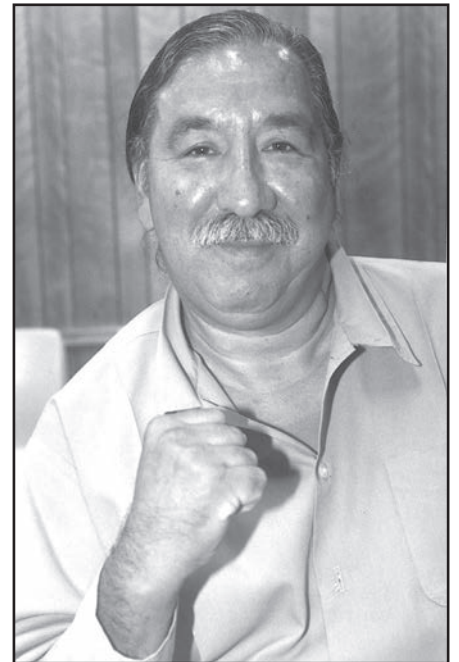
So challenge yourself to make a difference. having said that, I want to encourage you to find it within your heart to donate to this child that was a victim of this mindset that allows this type of tragedy to take place. Savannah's little girl that was ripped from your womb, will need your help. Savannah had picked out a name for her while she was still unborn, her name

is Haisley Jo and you can donate to help establish her in a healthy environment by sending your donations to any U.S. Bank in the name of the child, Haisley Jo.

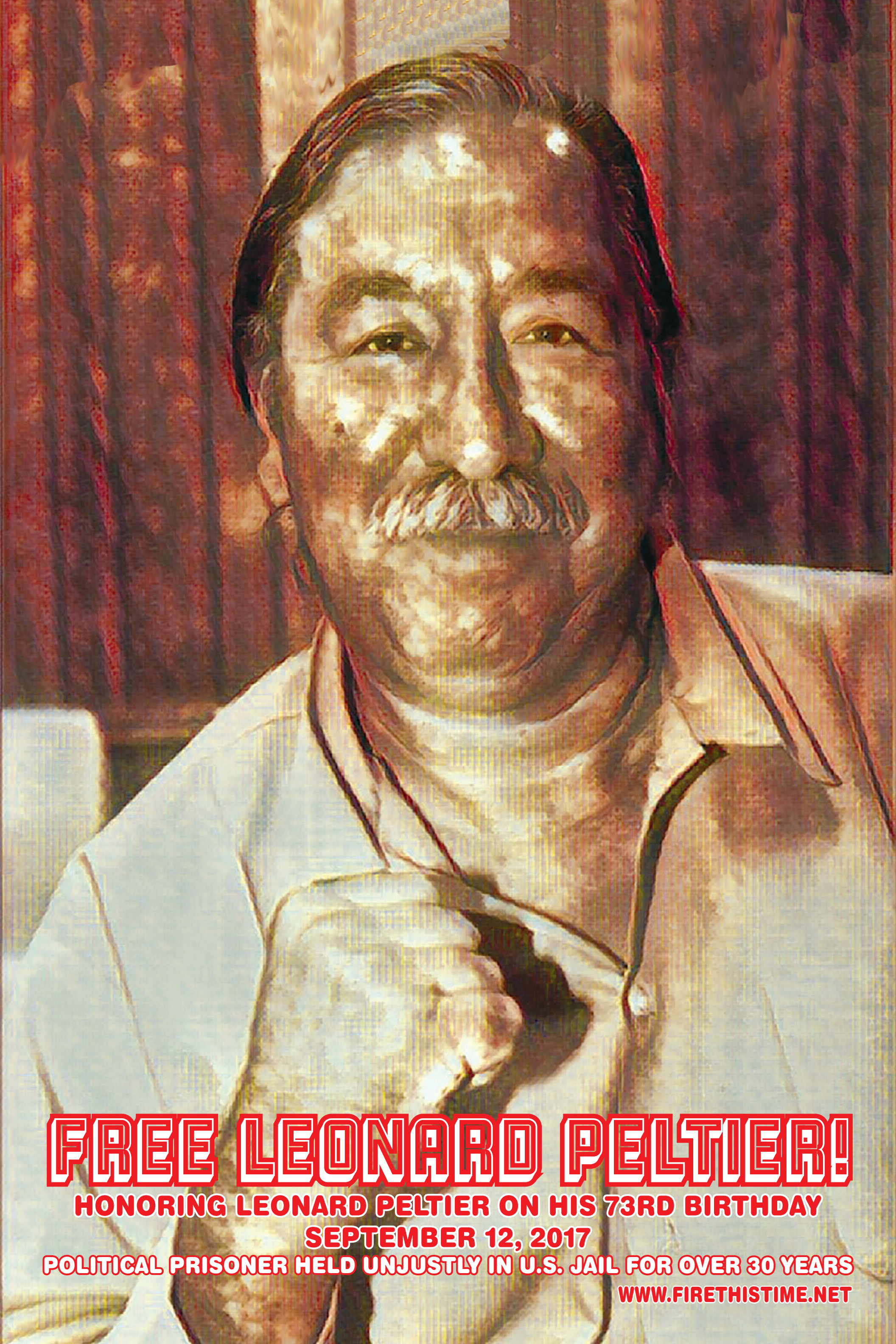
In the spirit of Crazy Horse,

Mitakuye Oyasin

Leonard Peltier



Leonard Peltier is an indigenous activist and political prisoner in the United States. In 1975, Leonard was set up and convicted of the death of two FBI agents who had sped on to the Jumping Bull compound in an unmarked car and who began a shoot-out with the Indigenous people who were there. He is 72 years old and has been imprisoned for 41 years. Regardless of his innocence and huge health problems, the U.S. refuses to release him. Despite huge adversity he continues to speak our for indigenous rights and social justice.



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VENEZUELA



What is the Discussion Really?

By Alison Bodine

On July 30, 2017 the people of Venezuela had a great victory in defense of their sovereignty and self-determination. In the face of a violent counter-revolutionary opposition and growing U.S.-led imperialist intervention in their country, more than 8 million Venezuelan's went to the polls and successfully elected a National Constituent Assembly.

Since then, the U.S. government and their imperialist allies have continued to escalate their threats, sanctions and intervention against the democratically elected government of Venezuela and the Bolivarian revolutionary process.

On August 11, 2017, U.S. President Trump threatened military intervention against Venezuela. "We have troops all over the world in places that are very very far away. Venezuela is not very far away and the people are suffering and they're dying. We have many options for Venezuela including a possible military option, if necessary."

Then on August 25, President Trump issued an Executive order imposing a fifth round of sanctions against Venezuela, severely limiting the ability of the government to receive dividends, pay off debts and to acquire new bonds from any person or organization operating in the United States.

The Whitehouse claims that these sanctions demonstrate that the U.S. government will "not stand by as Venezuela crumbles." However, it is the U.S. government and their right-wing allies in Venezuela that are doing the crumbling. With each dangerous

escalation, the U.S. government is working to overthrow the government of President Maduro and reverse the gains made by poor, working and oppressed people within the Bolivarian revolutionary process.

Of course, U.S. intervention in Venezuela is not in the headlines of major capitalist media. Instead, headlines read: "Venezuela burns as dictator Maduro turns his back on the people", "Hunger eats away at Venezuela's soul as its people struggle to survive," "Venezuela Is Collapsing," and "Venezuela's descent into dictatorship shows democracy can be lost," among others.

The U.S. government and their media mouthpiece have done their jobs by giving us the buzzwords: economic collapse, dictatorship, democracy, election fraud, human rights and more. This is the narrative that U.S. imperialism has written, but is this really the discussion about Venezuela?

Target: Venezuela

The U.S. government has been attempting to overthrow the democratically elected government of Venezuela ever since President Hugo Chavez was elected in 1998. In order to achieve this, they have relied upon both overt and covert methods, all while working hand-in-hand with Venezuela's violent opposition.

On top of the military threats and sanctions against Venezuela, a central component of imperialist intervention has been the direct and indirect financial support, to the tune of millions of dollars, for so-called "democracy

building" and "civil society" programs and organizations in Venezuela.

Much of this money is funneled through grants given out by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), the National Democratic Institute (NDI), the International Republican Institute (IRI), the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and other US governmental and non-governmental institutions.

From 2014-2016 the NED awarded over \$5.8million in grants to 110 different "democracy building" organizations and projects in Venezuela. These grants have vague descriptions such as "Citizen Mobilization and Constructive Policy Formulation" (2016 - \$200,000), "Strengthening Female Leadership in Venezuela," (2016- \$50,000), and "Fostering Entrepreneurship in Defense of Democracy and Free Markets," (2015 - \$160,813) among others. In 2016 alone, the USAID budget for Venezuela was \$6.5million.

Although exactly how all of the millions of dollars is spent in Venezuela is not publicly available, investigations have been conducted that expose how directly the U.S. government is supporting Venezuela's counter-revolutionary political parties and organizations. For example, in 2006, the New York Times reported that USAID had "distributed about \$25 million to various Venezuelan organizations over the last five years, according to officials involved in the projects." It was later revealed that some

of these funds were connected to the April 2002 attempted coup d'état against Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez. As reported in an article by the Council on Hemispheric Affairs (COHA), an investigation conducted by the U.S. State Department itself found that the U.S. State Department, the NED and the U.S. Department of Defense "provided training, institution building and other support programs totaling about \$3.3 million to Venezuelan organizations and individuals, some of whom are understood to have been involved in the events of April 12-14 [in reference to the attempted coup d'état]."

On top of the funding of political parties and so-called civil society organizations, the U.S. government also carries out interventions in Venezuela through the form of media, such as the "Voice of America." This media network, which now includes internet, radio, and television, promotes "U.S. values" and "Democracy" around the world, including to people in Venezuela, and has an annual budget of over \$200 million.

The OAS as a Tool for Imperialist Intervention

In December, 2015 the opposition in Venezuela was elected to a majority in the National Assembly. Since then, the Organization of American States (OAS) has been especially aggressive in their promotion of foreign intervention in Venezuela. The President of the OAS, Luis Almagro, has focused a majority of his tenure on attempts to invoke the "Inter-American Democratic Charter" against Venezuela. His campaign, though supported by right-wing governments in Latin America, as well as the United States and Canada, has failed due to the opposition of other member-states, who have taken a stand in defense of the sovereignty of Venezuela.

The OAS has long-been recognized a tool for U.S. intervention in Latin America. Not only is it head-quartered in Washington,

DC, it also receives a majority of its funding directly from the U.S. State Department. In turn, the OAS has stood beside the U.S. government and served imperialist interests in Latin America throughout its 60 years,



standing by, and even assisting, during more than 50 U.S.-sponsored coup d'états in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In fact, the U.S. government described the OAS in their own words in the Congressional Budget justification for fiscal year 2018, "The Organization of American States (OAS) promotes U.S. political and economic interests in the Western Hemisphere by countering the influence of anti-U.S. countries such as Venezuela."

Through the maneuvering of the U.S.



government and imperialism within the OAS, it is clear that Venezuela is high on their list for attack and intervention.

Right-wing Violence and Sabotage

In tandem with the increased threats and sanctions from the U.S. government, Venezuela's violent opposition has increased their campaign of violence and sabotage against the government of President Maduro and the majority of people in Venezuela who support the government and the Bolivarian revolutionary process.

Their violent attacks have taken many forms, from the hoarding of food, arson and blockading of government buildings, including hospitals, and a helicopter attack on a Venezuelan military base, to burning people alive on the streets. From the beginning of April to July 31, 2017, the violence and chaos brought

about by Venezuela's right-wing opposition killed 126 people and has injured over one thousand.

This campaign of terror culminated on July 31, the day of the National Constituent Assembly elections. Right-wing violence in the streets of Venezuela continued on this day as 200 voting stations were surrounded by violent opposition members, 21 state security personnel were wounded with gunshots, and at least 10 people were killed.

All the while, without shame, leaders in Venezuela's violent opposition openly display their alliances with the U.S. government and their puppets in the Organization of American States. For example, not only have members of the Venezuelan opposition met numerous times with members of the U.S. Congress, they have also met with President Trump himself. (By the way, President Trump has refused to even speak with Venezuelan President Maduro on the phone).

Intervention is the Context, Imperialism is the Discussion

As solidarity activists writing, organizing and mobilizing outside of Venezuela, it is our most significant responsibility to understand the context of the struggle in

Venezuela today. I think that it can really be summed up in just three points:

1-Venezuela is a target of imperialism.

2-Imperialists have spent millions of dollars on their campaign of sabotage, including working with the violent counter-revolutionary opposition to manufacture a crisis.

3-A revolutionary government and the mass majority of people that support it want to take their country on a different path and imperialist countries are trying to block this development.

Or, most generally stated, the context of Venezuela today is imperialist intervention; nothing more and nothing less. That's it. The case stops there. There is nothing else that we need to know about the Bolivarian revolutionary process in order to be in solidarity with Venezuela and the government of President Maduro.

With this understanding, answering questions such as, "how does the Venezuela solidarity movement weaken the reactionary Venezuela opposition?" become much more straight-forward. We oppose U.S. intervention and all attempts to overthrow the democratically elected government of Venezuela. That is our political and moral responsibility.

Venezuela today is in the throes of a sharp class struggle. Venezuela's capitalist class controls a majority of the production and distribution of food and basic goods in Venezuela. They control the majority of the mass media. Every hour of every day they are working overtly and covertly with the U.S. government and their allies to destroy the Bolivarian revolutionary process. Therefore, for solidarity activists outside of Venezuela, it is not a question of how many mistakes the government of President Maduro makes. Because it is very natural that within this battle, President Maduro and the revolutionary government will make tactical mistakes, or will take measures that are not effective or efficient. Since the government is dynamic and the Bolivarian revolutionary process is dynamic, it is impossible for mistakes not to happen.

The question really, is not about whether people who claim to be in solidarity with the Bolivarian revolution should express opinions about what the government or what the revolutionary leadership in Venezuela is doing. Instead, the

question we need to be asking is what is the priority for us? What do we discuss, what do we organize around, and what do we write about?

There are no rules for "political correctness" that say that every mistake that the government makes has to be exposed. We must remember that imperialists are exposing the Bolivarian Revolutionary process and Maduro's government every minute. People can have their opinions, but it is something different all together to campaign in favor of imperialism.

For example, what is so significant about claiming that the National Constituent Assembly election was rigged in favor of the government, while at the same time imperialist propaganda is also claiming that the election was rigged. In fact, it matters not to our struggle to get imperialism out of Venezuela if election numbers announced by the revolutionary Bolivarian government are correct or not, as some solidarity activists have openly questioned. The question must be asked, as progressives and supporters of the Bolivarian revolutionary process in Venezuela, whom are we serving with this type of "political correctness"? We must expose the lies and manipulations of U.S. imperialism, not become their parrots.

Build a Strong and United Venezuela Solidarity Movement

Former U.S. Secretary of State Madeline Albright, widely known for her defense of

the deaths of over 500,000 Iraqi children due to U.S. sanctions, spoke recently in front of the US Senate in order to justify continued U.S. funding for so-called democracy building programs. In her statement she outlined the context in which these programs will continue to be an important tool for U.S. intervention around the globe. "The financial crisis, and growing gaps between rich and poor, have fueled anger and deepened doubts about the capacity of democracy to deliver on its promises. Recent progress in a few key countries and regions has been overshadowed by renewed authoritarianism in Russia, democratic backsliding in places such as Turkey, the rise of illiberal populism in Europe, state collapse in an authoritarian Venezuela, and the breakdown of order in parts of the Middle East and North Africa."

The solidarity movement operates in the same context – Venezuela is in the targets of imperialism in all of its deadly forms. If the U.S. succeeds in overthrowing President Maduro and destroying the Bolivarian revolutionary process, it would be a major defeat not only for the people of Venezuela, but for poor, working and oppressed people around the world. Therefore, and foremost, we must unite to build a strong movement in defense of the sovereignty and self-determination of Venezuela against all forms of imperialist intervention.

*Follow Alison Bodine on Twitter:
@Alisoncolette*

Maduro
4 achievements
4 years

Perhaps the most vilified Latin American president, Nicolas Maduro and his government have been under attack since the day he was democratically elected. While Venezuela's opposition continue to seek his ouster by any means necessary, the country's economy and people are being pounded by an economic war. Despite these challenges, there have been important achievements.

- Social Housing Benefiting 1.4 M Families** (Icon: House)
- 6 Million Accessed the CLAP Food Program** (Icon: Shopping bag with food)
- 5.2 Million Laptops provided free to students** (Icon: Laptop, note: *since 2009)
- \$70 Billion Paid to Service National Debt** (Icon: Hand holding money)

telesur

Cuban President Raúl Castro sends letter of support to Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro

Havana, August 6, 2017 “Year 59 of the Revolution”

Nicolás Maduro Moros, President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Dear Nicolás:

With immense revolutionary jubilation I learned of the results of the elections and the installation of the National Constituent Assembly. Undoubtedly, this process represents a valuable lesson, which makes Venezuela a

symbol for our continent, as Fidel affirmed with great clarity. The demonstration of popular support has been clear and resounding, faithful to the legacy of The Liberator Simón Bolívar and President Hugo Chávez Frías.

Experience shows that every act of terror raises the morale of the people, each aggression makes them stronger, each blow strengthens unity.

Surely, there will come days of intense struggle, of international harassment, of blockades, of limitations; but they will also be days of creation and work for revolutionaries and all the Venezuelan people who, as before, will not be alone and will have us Cubans, in the front line of militant solidarity and more committed to their cause.

A strong embrace,

Raúl Castro Ruz



Carta de Raúl a Maduro: Cada golpe fortalece la unidad

*** EN ESPAÑOL ***

La Habana, 6 de agosto de 2017
“Año 59 de la Revolución”

Nicolás Maduro Moros
Presidente de la República Bolivariana
de Venezuela

Querido Nicolás:

Con inmenso júbilo revolucionario conocí de los resultados de las elecciones y de la instalación de la Asamblea

Nacional Constituyente. Sin dudas este proceso representa una valiosa lección, que hace de Venezuela todo un símbolo para nuestro continente, como afirmara Fidel con su meridiana claridad. La demostración de respaldo popular ha sido clara y rotunda, fiel al legado de El Libertador Simón Bolívar y del Presidente Hugo Chávez Frías.

La experiencia demuestra que cada acto de terror levanta la moral del pueblo, cada agresión lo hace más fuerte, cada golpe fortalece la unidad.

Seguramente, vendrán días de fuerte lucha, de acoso internacional, de bloqueos, de limitaciones; pero también serán días de creación y trabajo para los revolucionarios y todo el pueblo venezolano que, como hasta hoy, no estará solo y nos tendrá a los cubanos, en la primera fila de la solidaridad militante y más comprometida con su causa.

Un fuerte abrazo,

Raúl Castro Ruz

Desde: <http://cubadebate.cu>

"WAR ON TERROR" AT HOME & ABROAD

**WHY BILL C-51 AND BILL C-59 ARE
PART OF THE ONGOING ATTACKS
ON POOR & WORKING PEOPLE**

September 11 is fast approaching. Every year it marks the dark anniversary of a 2001 deadly terrorist attack on the World Trade Centre in New York City – and the beginning of the much deadlier U.S.-led “War on Terror”. The world has changed forever, and Canada changed with it. The military has become an increasingly active and violent participant in unending wars and occupations focused on the Middle East and North Africa. This has been matched by a significant increase in domestic “anti-terror” laws limiting human rights – best exemplified by Bill C-51 and its new “Liberal-Party-lite” cousin Bill C-59.

With billions of dollars spent, millions of lives lost, and fundamental rights trampled on – it’s worth asking: Is the “War on Terror” really justified? Are we safer? Are our lives getting better?

War at Home Matches War Abroad

Canada spent at minimum \$18 billion on the war in Afghanistan, with over 40,000 troops serving in this country’s longest war. After 16 years of foreign military “help” the country continues to be devastated by growing poverty and displacement, as well as a never-ending foreign occupation.

As military expenditures have skyrocketed, the quality of life of poor and working people in Canada has plummeted. A recent study by the Broadbent Institute found that the cost of a house in Canada now requires double the working hours that it did in the 1970’s, and

the income inequality gap is the worst it has even been. A Statistics Canada report has also found that income inequality, is associated with the premature death of 40,000 people every year in Canada, which is 110 every day.

Since September 11, 2001 the Canadian government has also passed at least 10 major “anti-terrorism” laws. We live in a country which has “legalized” secret trails, arrests without warrants, detention without trial, massive surveillance, limits on the “right to remain silent” and no fly lists. This was even before the Conservatives rammed through Bill C-51!

New Attacks

Among many changes, Bill C-51 granted CSIS undefined powers of “disruption” which included explicitly breaking laws and violating the Canadian Charter of Rights and

Freedoms, gave 17 Government agencies the ability to share our personal and private information without a warrant, and used language so broad that countless legal experts pointed out it could be used to target practically anyone – especially peaceful protestors.

In June of this year the Liberals laid out

plans to boost military spending by a massive 73 percent over 20 years. They also announced their “Bill C-59”, which was supposed to follow through on their almost two-year-old promise to “fix” Bill C-51 if elected.

These two moves must be seen as connected – as they are the right and left hands of the Canada’s “War on Terror”.

Canada’s military is already spending more per year than it did in World War II, and all it has to show is it’s “success” in bombing, occupying and ruining countries like Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and Syria. Are they really better off now? Are more troops, more guns, more tanks, more bombs going to improve this?

Meanwhile, Bill C-59 might limit some of the most outrageous parts of Bill C-51, but it keeps others (government sharing of our private information, vague CSIS powers of “disruption”), expands others (cyber-surveillance and data collection, legal immunity for CSIS agents), and still fundamentally leaves us with less government recognized human rights than we used to have.

“War on Terror” is a War on Poor and Working People Worldwide

At home and abroad, the government justifies what would normally be thought of as outrageous and unnecessary by wrapping it in the hysteria of the “War on Terror”. The tone and branding of Trudeau may be different than Harper – but fundamentally the government is racing down the same road.

There is 16 years and millions of deaths which show that these wars are more about competition for control of territory and resources than helping people. Across the world, as advanced capitalist countries like the U.S., Canada, France and England spend more and more on warring against each other



and less and less on the social services poor and working people fought to establish and pay taxes for – governments are bracing for an inevitable backlash. The massive Iraq War protests, the “Occupy”, “Idle No More”, “Black Lives Matter” and climate justice movements, among countless other protests which have never stopped, are all evidence of a simmering unrest looking to boil. “Anti-Terrorist” legislation is about containing the domestic fallout from the “War on Terror”, not protecting us.

The Canadian Parliament returns on September 18. On their agenda is the passing of Bill C-59. We need a much stronger response and cross-country organizing effort to scrap Bill C-59 and Repeal Bill C-51 altogether. Now is definitely not the time to compromise and take a “give and take” approach negotiating with our human rights. The government is just looking to take, take, take, and the consequences for poor and working people in Canada around the world are horrendous. We are much safer when governments respect human rights at home and abroad. Let’s fight together for that!

Repeal Bill C-51!

Scrap Bill C-59!

Justin Trudeau, Respect Our Human Rights!

Our Security Lies in Defending the Rights of All!

*Follow Thomas Davies on Twitter:
@thomasdavies59*

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Canada spent at minimum \$18 billion on the war in Afghanistan, with over 40,000 troops serving in this country’s longest war. After 16 years of foreign military “help” Afghanistan has been devastated by growing poverty and displacement.



The Working Group to Stop Bill C-51 continued its weekly action campaign in August with four actions in four cities in four weeks. Vancouver, Richmond, Burnaby and Coquitlam were all locations for either a picket line or banner drop as the group reached its 130th consecutive action in Richmond on August 28th.

There continues to be a lot of important education work to be done informing the public about the proposed Bill C-59. Justin Trudeau promises it will “fix” Bill C-51, but many of the major human rights violations remain. As parliament begins again in September, it is crucial to continue this work and inform the public of the reality of the situation.

As the days become shorter, the Working Group will soon put the banner drops on hold until next spring. However, the campaign to “Repeal Bill C-51!” and “Scrap Bill C-59!” shows no signs of slowing down.

By Janine Solanki

As summer winds down, we have an inspiring and beautiful season of Pride events to look back on. Throughout Metro Vancouver, a host of events, marches and activities were held under the hot summer sun, celebrating the queer community and pushing forward against discrimination and for LGBTQ rights. Among the pride flags and an abundance of color and glitter, was a consistent presence of Cuban flags and a banner proclaiming "Cuba Says: LGBT Rights are Human Rights!" carried by organizers and supporters of Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC).

Cuba at Pride?

This provoked many questions from people who visited the VCSC information table at various Pride events. "I want to visit Cuba... but I thought I could be thrown in jail for being gay?" These false notions are the result of a US-led mainstream media campaign that is in the business of manipulation and misinformation on the reality of life in Cuba. It is for this reason that every year VCSC is at Pride events to dispel the lies about LGBTQ rights in Cuba, and to instead spread the truth – that Cuba is taking a lead in advancing LGBTQ rights and for fighting homophobia and transphobia.

LGBTQ rights in Cuba?

On the legal front Cuba has made great strides for LGBTQ rights. Discrimination on the basis of a person's sexual orientation and/or gender identity is illegal, and adoption by same-sex couples is legal. The Cuban National Center for Sex Education (CENESEX) is at the forefront of advancing LGBTQ rights, leading public education and pushing for legal advancements, with Mariela Castro, the director of CENESEX, spearheading the movement. Mariela Castro is also daughter of

Cuban President Raul Castro and Vilma Espin, a founder of the Federation of Cuban Women. On the front of Trans rights, Cuba offers free gender-reassignment surgery and hormone replacement therapy. It is a testament to Cuba's progress against transphobia that the Cuban people elected Adela Hernandez, a trans woman, to municipal assembly in 2012, making her the first trans woman to hold public office.

Members of Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba have had the opportunity to participate in Cuba's events for the International Day Against Homophobia, and many conversations at VCSC's table at Pride events were spent relaying these first-hand experiences. The annual Cuban Days Against Homophobia and Transphobia, throughout most of the month of May and across Cuba, include conferences and forums, a massively popular gala performance, and a "conga" parade through the streets of Havana. Seeing the minister of public health, the minister of education, and other government officials out in support of these events made it clear that the queer community has the support of the Cuban government.

While the fight against discrimination and to further LGBTQ rights is a continuing process, it is clear that Cuba is a leader in advancing LGBTQ rights and has

become a country which can be looked to and learned from!

VCSC at Pride!

This year Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba was proud to be a community partner for the Vancouver Pride Society's 2017 Pride Season. Pride started out in June, which is LGBT Pride month. The season kicked off with East Side Pride on June 24th, in Grandview Park on Commercial Drive in East Vancouver. VCSC's table was busy throughout the



Top: VCSC at Vancouver Pride. Middle and bottom: Conga against homophobia and transphobia in Havana, Cuba

VANCOUVER COMMUNITIES IN SOLIDARITY WITH CUBA OUT IN SUPPORT OF PRIDE!

festival, with many great conversations with people wanting to know more about queer rights in Cuba. One thing that drew particular interest at the table were educational and artistic posters by CENESEX which can be found up at institutions and public places throughout Cuba, promoting the “humanity is diversity” campaign against homophobia and transphobia. VCSC also contributed to the program with a salsa lesson, which got people up and dancing and introduced them to one of the things Cubans do best – dance!

The next day on June 25th, VCSC was out in Surrey with an information table where organizers spent the day talking to people at the Surrey Pride festival. With a Pride flag, Trans flag and Cuban flag flying high together over the table, many people stopped by to find out what Cuba has to do with Pride!

On to July, due to the popularity of the East Side Pride salsa lesson VCSC was out at the Pride Sports Day on July 22nd for another salsa lesson. Alongside a multitude of sports games, a run and performances, the queer community learned a few salsa steps and were encouraged to find out more about VCSC and Cuba solidarity!

August was the height of Pride season, starting with the Vancouver Trans March on August 4th. VCSC joined the march down Commercial Drive chanting “Trans rights are human rights!” The next day, August 5th, VCSC was out on Commercial Drive again for the 14th Annual Vancouver Dyke March. Following the march, VCSC organizers participated in the festival at Grandview Park and gave out VCSC’s special Pride focused newsletter, featuring articles on queer issues in Cuba.

On August 6th the Vancouver Pride Parade took over the streets of Downtown Vancouver, bringing out over half a million people to watch and participate in the parade. For the 12th year running VCSC marched in the parade, complete with a decorated vehicle, Pride, Trans and Cuban flags and a banner reading “Cuba Says: Sexual Diversity is Not Dangerous! Homophobia and Transphobia are!” VCSC organizers and supporters danced through the streets in matching neon pink t-shirts printed with the beautiful logo of Cuba’s Trans network and the words “Humanidad es Diversidad”, and chanted “Viva Cuba, Viva Pride!” After the parade in which massive crowds of people saw that Cuba is out in support of Pride, VCSC was at

the Sunset Beach post-parade festival with an information table, talking to festival goers and giving out the VCSC Pride newsletter.

The last event of the 2017 Pride season was on August 19th, when New Westminster closed down a downtown street for their Pride street festival. VCSC’s information table at the festival drew the attention of many people out enjoying the festival, and was constantly busy with people talking to VCSC organizers and signing a petition against the unjust US blockade against Cuba.

Metro Vancouver’s Pride season was a great chance to show Cuba’s support for the queer community, but this doesn’t end with the Pride season. VCSC will be holding an event on September 14th, with a film, live music, speakers and discussion about LGBTQ rights in Cuba! The event will feature documentary “Mariela Castro’s March: Cuba’s LGBT Revolution” and will be at 6:30pm at the Vancouver Public Library Central Branch.

To find out more about VCSC events, Cuba and queer issues in Cuba visit www.vancubasolidarity.com, follow Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba on Facebook, or follow on Twitter @VanCuba_VCSC

Photos clockwise from top: Conga against homophobia in Havana, sign reads “My son is trans and I want him to be treated with respect”; Vancouver Pride Parade; Conga against homophobia in Havana; VCSC at New Westminster Pride; Sign at Conga against homophobia in Havana reads “I include myself!” “no to the blockade!” Yo me incluyo is a campaign for social inclusion of the LGBTQ community and against discrimination.



By Manuel Yepe

A century after the seizure of power by the Bolshevik Party led by Vladimir Ilyich Lenin and Leon Trotsky, the current validity of the ideas of the Russian Revolution of October 1917 can be seen in the orientation of the struggles waged by the peoples of the whole against capitalist exploitation.

October cleared the roads to human liberation that Marxism had identified and discovered in other new ways. It led the nation to achieve great successes in economic, politics, culture, social justice and defense, to make backward Russia a world power in a short time.

October allowed the efforts and sacrifices of the peoples of the Soviet Union to reach the level of economic, military and scientific development that brought about a bipolarity of the world in which

Communist Party of the United States (CPUSA) multiplied its pacts with small union groups. The election of Franklin D. Roosevelt as president also meant the renewal of the unions and increased in them the influence of the CPUSA.

During this period, the CPUSA was distinguished by its defense of the Second Spanish Republic, a victim of the Francoist uprising that led to the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939). Leftists from all over the world joined to defend the Republic, providing funds for medical care and in many cases volunteering in the International Brigades. The CPUSA provided the first members of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, which, in addition to supporting the Republican government of Spain, was the first military force made of US-made military force in which blacks and whites were integrated in the same ranks, with the same rights and obligations.

Workers' Party (SWP), then political allied with the Fourth International, of sedition and conspiracy to overthrow the government. The FBI raided the offices of the SWP and formed a grand jury for the trial. The accused used the process to proclaim their socialist principles from the dock, rejected the imperialist war and refuted the presentation of the socialist revolution as a conspiracy or coup.

The United States' entry into World War II in December 1941 forced an alliance with the Soviet Union that enabled the recruitment of communist militants into the US military. At the end of the Second World War, in 1945, and the beginning of the Cold War against the USSR, the official US "truce" with the CPUSA ended and an anti-communist psychosis was exacerbated by the alleged discovery of "Soviet espionage networks" and the denunciation of a growing power of the communists in the industrial trade union

sector. Then came the McCarthy or witch-hunt period, one of the most shameful episodes in the legal history of the United States, which included the political murder of

SOVIET OCTOBER IN THE YANKEE IMAGINATION



Vladimir Lenin addresses the Red Army. Leon Trotsky and Lev Kamenev, other central leaders, stand to the right. May 5, 1920

the nations of the planet could rest their hopes of progress. The United States was no exception.

In January 1919, Lenin invited the left wing of the Socialist Party of America (SPA) to join the newly-created Communist International in Moscow. In the spring of that year this wing took control of the whole party displacing its previous leadership, which was smaller and of social-democratic orientation.

From its origins, the SPA suffered attacks from several state governments and from the US federal government itself. It feared a repeat of the revolts that were taking place on European soil. In the United States, between the end of 1919 and January 1920, the "red terror" led the United States Attorney General to order the arrest of thousands of communists, with the Sedition Act of 1918 as a legal basis.

During the Great Depression of 1929, the

When the United States Communist Party (CPUSA) was formed in 1919, the Washington government had long suppressed the Socialists because they had opposed American intervention in World War I and made a campaign against military service. As of January 1920, the new target of persecution was the communists who began to be massively imprisoned. The CPUSA was forced into hiding and had to change its name several times to avoid arrest of its cadres and militants.

In the 1930s, the FBI persecuted Nazis and Communists under suspicion that they intended to launch an armed revolt against the federal government. In 1940, laws that made it illegal to hold a favorable opinion to overthrow the government came into force.

In 1941, when the United States was about to enter the world war in Europe and Japan, the Roosevelt government accused 29 members of the Socialist

the couple Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, of sedition and conspiracy to overthrow the government a hate crime that still cries out for justice.

August 31, 2017.

Manuel E. Yepe, is a lawyer, economist and journalist. He is a professor at the Higher Institute of International Relations in Havana. He was Cuba's ambassador to Romania, general director of the Prensa Latina agency; vice president of the Cuban Institute of Radio and Television; founder and national director of the Technological Information System (TIPS) of the United Nations Program for Development in Cuba, and secretary of the Cuban Movement for the Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples.

*A CubaNews translation. Edited by
Walter Lippmann.*

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OCTUBRE SOVIÉTICO EN EL IMAGINARIO YANQUI

* EN ESPAÑOL *

Por Manuel Yepe

A un siglo de la toma del poder por el Partido Bolchevique encabezado por Vladimir Ilich Lenin y Leon Trotski, la vigencia actual de las ideas de la Revolución Rusa de Octubre de 1917 se aprecia en la orientación de las luchas que libran los pueblos de todo el mundo contra la explotación capitalista.

Octubre desbrozó los caminos para la liberación humana que el marxismo había identificado y descubrió otras nuevas vías. Condujo a la nación a la obtención de grandes éxitos en la economía, la política, la cultura, la justicia social y la defensa, para convertir en breve tiempo a la atrasada Rusia en potencia mundial.

Octubre permitió que los esfuerzos y sacrificios de los pueblos de la Unión Soviética alcanzaran el nivel de desarrollo económico, militar y científico que propició una bipolaridad del mundo en la que pudieron asentar sus esperanzas de progreso las naciones del planeta. Estados Unidos no fue una excepción. En enero de 1919, Lenin invitó al ala izquierda del Partido Socialista de América (SPA) a unirse a la Internacional Comunista recién creada en Moscú. En la primavera de ese año esta ala tomó el control de todo el partido desplazando a su anterior directiva, más pequeña y de orientación socialdemócrata. Desde sus orígenes, el PSA sufrió ataques de varios gobiernos estaduales y del propio gobierno federal estadounidense que tenía una repetición de las revueltas que estaban teniendo lugar en suelo europeo. Se desató en Estados Unidos entre finales de 1919 y enero de 1920, el “terror rojo” que lideró la Fiscalía General de los Estados Unidos ordenando la detención de miles de comunistas, con el Ley de Sedición de 1918 como base jurídica. Durante la Gran Depresión de 1929, el Partido Comunista de Estados Unidos (CPUSA, por sus siglas en inglés) multiplicó sus pactos con pequeños grupos sindicales. La elección de Franklin D. Roosevelt como presidente supuso también la renovación de los sindicatos y el incrementó en ellos



Trabajadores rusos y sus familias durante la famosa huelga del fabrica Putilov. Petrograd, 1917

de la influencia del CPUSA.

Durante este período, el CPUSA se distinguió por su defensa de la Segunda República Española, víctima del levantamiento franquista que desembocó en la Guerra Civil Española (1936-1939). Izquierdistas de todo el mundo se unieron para defender a la República, aportando fondos para la asistencia médica y en muchos caso enrolándose como voluntarios en la Brigadas Internacionales. El CPUSA proporcionó los primeros integrantes de la Brigada Abraham Lincoln, que además de apoyar al gobierno republicano de España fue la primera fuerza militar compuesta por estadounidenses que integró a negros y blancos en las mismas filas, con los mismos derechos y obligaciones.

Al formarse en 1919 el Partido Comunista de Estados Unidos (CPUSA, por sus siglas en inglés), el gobierno de Washington reprimía hacia algún tiempo a los socialistas, debido a que éstos se habían opuesto a la intervención estadounidense en la Primera Guerra Mundial y hacían campaña contra el servicio militar. A partir de enero de 1920, el nuevo blanco de la persecución fueron los comunistas que comenzaron a ser masivamente encarcelados. El CPUSA fue forzado a la clandestinidad y debió cambiar varias veces de nombre para evitar la detención de sus cuadros y militantes.

En la década de 1930, el FBI perseguía a nazis y comunistas bajo sospechas de que pretendían lanzar una revuelta armada contra el Gobierno federal. En 1940 entraron en vigor leyes que declaraban ilegal sostener una opinión favorable al derrocamiento del Gobierno. En 1941, cuando Estados Unidos estaba a punto

de ingresar a la guerra mundial en Europa y Japón, el gobierno de Roosevelt acusó de sedición y conspiración para derrocar al gobierno a 29 miembros del Partido Socialista de los Trabajadores (SWP), entonces aliado político de la Cuarta Internacional. El FBI allanó las oficinas del SWP y se formó un gran jurado para el juicio. Los acusados utilizaron el proceso para pregonar sus principios socialistas desde el banquillo de los acusados, rechazaron la guerra imperialista y refutaron la

presentación de la revolución socialista como una conspiración o golpe de Estado.

La entrada de Estados Unidos en la IIGM en diciembre de 1941 forzó una alianza con la Unión Soviética que viabilizó el reclutamiento de militantes comunistas en las fuerzas armadas estadounidenses. Al término de la II GM en 1945 e inicio la Guerra Fría contra la URSS, terminó la “tregua” oficial estadounidense hacia el CPUSA y se exacerbó una psicosis anticomunista por el supuesto descubrimiento de “redes soviéticas de espionaje” y la denuncia de un creciente poder de los comunistas en el sindicalismo del sector industrial. Luego sobrevendría el macartismo o cacería de brujas, uno de los episodios más vergonzosos en la historia jurídica de Estados Unidos, con el asesinato político por condena en silla eléctrica de los esposos Ethel y Julius Rosenberg, un crimen de odio que aún reclama justicia.

Agosto 31 de 2017.

Manuel E. Yepe Menendez es periodista y se desempeña como Profesor adjunto en el Instituto Superior de las Relaciones Internacionales de La Habana.

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8/17/2017

The governments of the United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) have recently escalated the threat of nuclear attacks. Especially this week, the danger has become still greater, to the point of threatening to trigger World War III.

Veterans For Peace pledges to do everything we can to prevent the beginning of this new conflict and strongly urges the U.S. government to open a dialogue with the DPRK without any preconditions, and call on all countries to promote the same.

In the 1950s during the Korean War, both President Harry Truman and General Douglas MacArthur, who was commander of U.S. forces in Korea, openly discussed the possibility of using nuclear weapons against the DPRK. That threat was especially terrifying coming from the only country ever to use nuclear weapons in war, and at that time still under the very president who had ordered the Hiroshima and Nagasaki attacks.

The DPRK has remained under the U.S. nuclear threat from that day to the present.

In recent years, the DPRK has developed its nuclear weapons and missile capability in hopes of deterring such an attack by the U.S.

Frequent overtures for dialogue by the DPRK to the U.S. have been turned down. Instead, the U.S. has carried out large-scale, joint military exercises with the Republic of Korea (ROK) in and around the Korean Peninsula, flown B-1B strategic bombers into ROK airspace along the DMZ, and sailed the nuclear aircraft carrier Carl Vinson into Northeast Asia, in addition to the carrier Ronald Reagan, which is stationed in Japan.

On August 9, in reaction to President Trump's threat to rain "fire and fury" on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the DPRK military announced that it was going to draft a plan to launch four intermediate missiles into the waters around Guam, subject to Chairman Kim's approval. Japan's Defense Minister Onodera then announced that if an attack against the U.S. bases on Guam were carried out, this would

DIPLOMACY, NOT BOMBS - AN EMERGENCY APPEAL FROM VETERANS FOR PEACE

constitute an immediate threat, which would enable the Japanese Self-Defense Forces, for the first time in the postwar period, to engage in collective military operations with the U.S. military. This would in effect spell the end to Article 9 of Japan's constitution, which renounces Japan's right to participate in war.

Members of Veterans For Peace know that opening negotiations with the DPRK to prevent the beginning of this war will require political courage. According to the U.S. government and the mass media, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a country, with whom negotiation is impossible. However, the DPRK has diplomatic relations with 166 countries around the world, and had frozen its nuclear weapon program, under the 1994 Agreed Framework, until the Bush administration discarded the agreement in 2002.

The DPRK's Foreign Minister has stated that if the U.S. stops its joint military exercises with the Republic of Korea, the DPRK would be willing to stop its nuclear weapons tests and missile launches. The Foreign Minister also stated that the DPRK would be willing to engage in negotiations as long as the U.S. and South Korea do not demand that the DPRK dismantle its nuclear program as a precondition for the talks.

On the U.S. side, President Trump, speaking of the DPRK leader Kim Jong Un, said, "If it would be appropriate for me to meet him, I would absolutely. I would be honored to do it."

To create a positive environment for the negotiations, Veterans For Peace calls upon the U.S. government to suspend the upcoming U.S.-ROK joint war drill, 8/21-31, and begin the negotiations with DPRK now.

**End the Korean War Now!
Sign a Peace Treaty!**

www.veteransforpeace.org

**Scan to sign the
Petition to Stop
THAAD missile
system!**



By Janine Solanki

Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) has been organizing for almost 14 years, and a cornerstone of MAWO's activities have been month after month, coming out in protest with an antiwar rally and petition campaign. Throughout 16 years of a new era of war and occupation, led by the United States, new fronts of war and military intervention have been opened, sanctions imposed, and covert attacks and US-fomented civil wars had laid havoc to countries in the Middle East and North Africa. MAWO has responded each time with our demands and slogans, banners and picket signs, petitions and newsletters.

On Friday August 25th MAWO held a monthly antiwar rally and petition campaign, with the central demands of "US/Saudi Arabia Hands Off Yemen!" "US/Canada/NATO Hands Off Syria" and "US Out of Afghanistan!" The last month of colonial aggressions gave good reason for these demands to be at the forefront.

On Monday August 21, US President Trump announced that the US is escalating their war drive and will send 4000 more



troops to Afghanistan, in addition to the at least 8,400 already there. We already know what war and occupation has brought to Afghanistan. Today, after 16 years of US/NATO—led war and occupation, the people of Afghanistan face destruction, instability, poverty, unemployment and a society plagued by a foreign imperialist occupation.

In Yemen, what has become dubbed as the "forgotten war" is continuing with Saudi-led, US-backed airstrikes, and a land, air and sea blockade preventing critical food, water, sanitary and medical supplies from entering the country. This has set the stage for the world's worst recorded cholera outbreak. Since April 2017, over 540,000 people in Yemen have been infected with cholera, and an estimated 2000 have died from the disease.

Meanwhile in Syria, US military intervention is becoming increasingly deadly for the Syrian people. US airstrikes in the Syrian city of Raqqa have killed many civilians, with estimates as high as 100 civilians killed by US airstrikes in 48 hours, as reported on August 22nd, 2017.

The August 25th antiwar rally called for an end to the wars in Yemen, Syria and Afghanistan, and an end to all imperialist wars and occupations. Antiwar activists approached passers-by with petitions demanding Canada stop its \$15 billion arms deal with Saudi Arabia for so-call "light" armoured vehicles. An information table was busy with people stopping to talk to organizers, sign petitions and get more information. Mobilization Against War and Occupation encourages all peace-loving people to come out for the next antiwar rally and petition campaign on September 22nd at 5pm, in front of the Vancouver Art Gallery at Robson at Howe Street. For more information and upcoming events visit www.mawovancouver.org, follow on facebook or twitter @MAWOVan

By Janine Solanki

For over 55 years, Cuba has been under a US-imposed trade and travel blockade. Despite the harsh economic strain this has put on Cuba, this small island has still thrived with its world renowned free healthcare and education, as well as excelled in other aspects of society such as the arts, sports and scientific research. One must ask, if the Cuban Revolution has been able to accomplish so much with its limited resources under the blockade, imagine what they could achieve without the blockade! Many of Cuba's achievements are not only for Cubans to benefit from. Cuba's medical research has produced a lung cancer vaccine, and Cuba's model of literacy education has been used world wide! However despite these gains, Cuba still suffers under the blockade. This is not only from being unable to trade with the US but due to the fact that even if many items from medicines to car parts to building supplies and a vast number of goods aren't made in the US, if they are US patented or linked with a US subsidiary, Cuba does not have access to these goods!

Former US President Obama created a unique opportunity on December 17th, 2014, when he

announced that the US would be normalizing relations with Cuba. Some positive first steps were made, such as the opening of embassies in Washington and Havana and the US easing restrictions on the travel of US citizens to Cuba. However, the US blockade on Cuba has remained in place, and now US President Trump is attempting to put a halt on and roll back the progress already

**VANCOUVER
OTTAWA
MONTREAL
KIEV**



made under the Obama administration.

After Obama's 2014 announcement, Cuba solidarity activists in Vancouver came together to form Friends of Cuba Against the US Blockade – Vancouver (FCAB-Van). FCAB-Van has organized monthly picket actions in front of the US Consulate in Downtown Vancouver, demanding "Lift the Blockade on Cuba Now!"

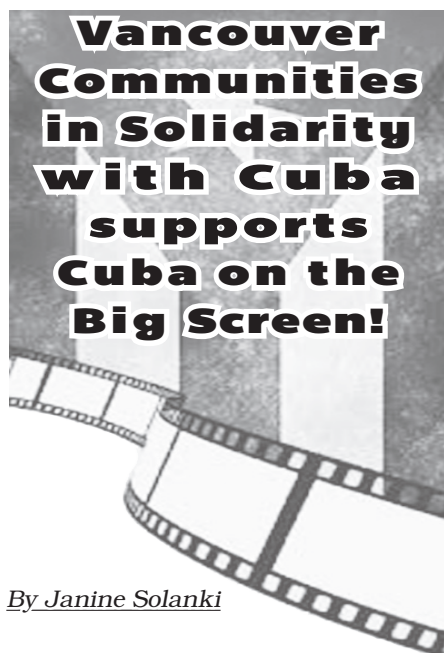
and "US Return Guantanamo to Cuba Now!"

On August 17, 2017, Cuba solidarity activists picketed in front of the US consulate in Vancouver, holding picket signs high and chanting demands against the US blockade for the US Consulate office and all walking by to hear! Alongside local speakers, greetings were heard from activists at the coordinated picket in front of the US embassy in

Ottawa, organized by Ottawa Cuba Connections. FCAB-Van coordinator Azza Rojbi also gave greetings via phone from Montreal, where she was visiting and participating in the picket action held by La Table de Concertation de Solidarité Quebec-Cuba. This month activists were encouraged to know they were also protesting in coordination with Cuba solidarity activists in Kiev, Ukraine!

Come out to the next picket action against the US blockade on Cuba, September 17 at 4pm, in front of the US Consulate in Downtown Vancouver. For more info visit www.vancubavsblockade.org, find Friends of Cuba Against the US Blockade on Facebook or follow on Twitter @NoBloqueoVan

**Lift the Blockade on Cuba Now!
U.S. Return Guantanamo to Cuba Now!**



By Janine Solanki

The Vancouver Latin-American Film Festival (VLAFF) hit the big screens for their 15th year running, and for the 10th year Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC) was proud to team up with VLAFF as an official Community Partner! This year, Cuba is the official guest country of the festival, which runs from August 24 – September 3. VCSC co-presented at both the EICTV Cuban Shorts Program and the Cuban Classic films section. On August 27th, VCSC coordinator Tamara Hansen gave an introduction before the Cuban shorts program, as well as before the Cuban classic film “Memories of Underdevelopment” (Memorias del subdesarrollo). On Thursday August 31, VCSC member Sarah Alwell gave an introduction before the Cuban classic film “Lucia”, and later in the evening Tamara Hansen gave an introduction the Cuban classic film “Strawberry and Chocolate” (Fresa y Chocolate). At all of these films, VCSC organizers were on hand with a table of Cuba solidarity information, and had the opportunity to talk to festival go-ers about Cuba!

On September 3rd for the final day of the festival, VCSC will be giving an introduction to the film “Twenty Years” (Veinte años), as well as Tamara Hansen will speak on a post-film panel titled “Cuba Today”.

For more information of the films and festival, visit www.vlaff.org. For more information on Cuba solidarity in Vancouver,

visit www.vancubasolidarity.com

Find VCSC on Facebook or follow on Twitter @VanCuba_VCSC

“By Any Means Necessary...”



March 18, 1964 – Excerpt from speech at Harvard University

I don't come here tonight to speak to you as a Democrat or a Republican or an American or anything that you want me to be. I'm speaking as what I am: one of twenty-two million black people in this country who are victims of your democratic system. They're the victims of the Democratic politicians, the victims of the Republican politicians. They're actually the victims of what you call democracy. So I stand here tonight speaking as a victim of what you call democracy. And you can understand what I'm saying if you realize it's being said through the mouth of a victim; the mouth of one of the oppressed, not through the mouth and eyes of the oppressor. But if you think we're sitting in the same chair or standing on the same platform, then you won't understand what I'm talking about. You'd expect me to stand up here and say what you would say if you were standing up here. And I'd have to be out of my mind.

OUR HERITAGE



Clara Zetkin

German Marxist theorist, activist, and organizer of the first International Women's Day in 1911

Excerpt From The Call,
April 29, 1920.

The possessing classes and their servants soon forget their little domestic quarrel, whether militarism was to have the supreme command only to the benefit of the bourgeois order, or even over the bourgeois order itself. Democracy and militarism embraced each other and united for the common struggle against the Left, against Bolshevism, that means against the workers who long for liberty. Democracy gave to these poor devils futile and hollow negotiations and conceptions, whilst militarism lured into them the bullets and balls of its machine guns and minenwerfers. The revolutionary part of the workers had enough clearness of aim as to the way of historical revolution, to understand well the necessity and the object of the struggle, but they had not yet grown enough in number and unity to be able to win victory. Thanks to militarism, democracy remained triumphant over revolution. In those places where the workers had had been able to vanquish militarism by seizing arms, there rages now the white terror. After Thuringia, Leipzig, Halle, etc the Rhine provinces and Westphalia are the victims of Noske's guards. The “modest police action” to restore “order and peace,” to which the Government of Ebert and Muller were bound by oath, has proved to be the most ferocious, unscrupulous dictatorship of sabres, guns, shells, and martial law. The thousands of wounded, torn, slaughtered bodies of workers tell another tale; the heroic courage and self-denying devotion with which the exploited have fought, because they ventured to dream of freedom and the highest human development for their class.

continued from page 3

region and gain an upper hand over rising global economic competitors such as China and Russia, and to ward off the threat that independent countries, particularly Iran, pose to their economic interests in the region.

US Out of Syria Now!

The 'civil war' in Syria today is a product of dangerous policies which place the economic interests of the US capitalist class above the lives of Syrians and people around the world. The US and their allies cannot and will not put an end to the war or resolve Syria's internal conflicts. In fact, most of the fighting and division which is tearing the country apart today was created by the US government itself.

The future of Syria must be left to Syrians to decide. Military intervention by the US and their allies has failed to bring any sort of peace, democracy, or human rights to Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Yemen, or anywhere else they have intervened. It is well beyond time for the US to end any

and all intervention in the country and let the Syrian government and people put an end to terrorism and war in their country.

Follow Nita Palmer on Twitter:
@NGP1z0



Rally against Turkey's bombing of Syria in Ankara, Turkey.

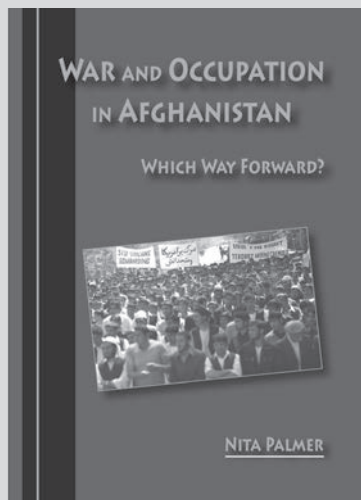
The first three months of 2017 saw more than 250,000 additional Syrians register as refugees.



Los Angeles rally against U.S. bombing of Syria.

Battle of Ideas Press

WAR AND OCCUPATION
IN AFGHANISTAN
WHICH WAY FORWARD?



BY NITA PALMER

Nita Palmer is an author and researcher on the war in Afghanistan. She is a member of the editorial board of Vancouver, Canada-based social justice newspaper Fire This Time.

January 2010, paperback, \$7.00

155 pages, illustrated,

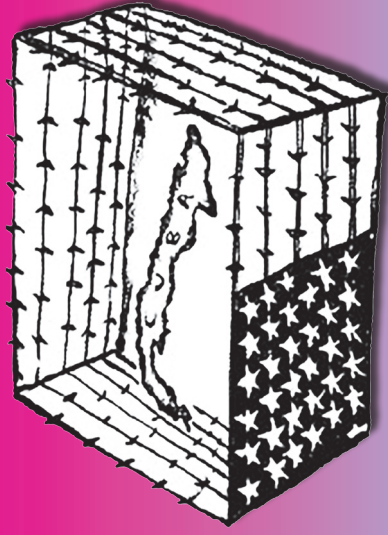
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MONTHLY PICKET ACTION

**HEY TRUMP
HANDS OFF CUBA!**



**LIFT THE U.S.
BLOCKADE ON
CUBA NOW!**

RETURN GUANTANAMO TO CUBA!

Sunday, September 17 4 PM

**U.S CONSULATE
1075 W. PENDER ST.
DOWNTOWN VANCOUVER**

**FRIENDS OF CUBA AGAINST THE U.S. BLOCKADE - VANCOUVER
WWW.VANCUBAVSBLOCKADE.ORG**

NO REGIME CHANGE IN VENEZUELA!



**U.S./CANADA
HANDS OFF
VENEZUELA!**



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

- 1. PROTEST ACTION 4 PM**
U.S./CANADA HANDS OFF VENEZUELA!
US CONSULATE IN VANCOUVER
1070 WEST PENDER ST.
- 2. INFO TABLING & PETITION 5:30 PM**
MADURO IS OUR PRESIDENT!
CELEBRATING THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY!
VANCOUVER ART GALLERY
ROBSON ST. @ HOWE ST.

**FIRE THIS TIME - VENEZUELA SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN
WWW.FIRETHISTIME.NET**